

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for generating digitized documents for a digital environment, comprising:

a plurality of at least one scanners, each provided with a local operator control unit; and

a management unit ~~operatively~~ connected to said scanners and provided with: including

[[-]] inputting means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a digitized document,

[[-]] warning means for communicating a request for a digitized document to said plurality of scanners,

[[-]] receiving means for receiving from any one of said scanners an acceptance of the a-request as selected via said local operator control unit of that scanner, and

[[-]] allocation means whereby, in response to the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the digitized document requested in the ~~selected~~-request is allocated to said scanner which sent the acceptance.

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said receiving means includes:

[[-]] means for receiving from a first scanner an inquiry concerning information regarding a request,

[[-]] means for offering the requested information, and

[[-]] means for receiving from the first scanner an acceptance of a request selected with ~~the~~ aid of the local operator control means of the first scanner.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is also provided with means for checking whether the requested digitized document is already available in a required digital form in a connected database.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said allocation means, when allocating the ~~said~~ scan order, prevents other scanners from accepting the request concerned for a digitized document.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the request for a digitized document also contains a specification of required properties and format of the document.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5, wherein said management unit, when allocating the scan order, automatically transmits to the accepting first scanner the specification associated with the relevant request.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein said management unit, simultaneously with indicating that a request has been received for a digitized document, automatically transmits to applicable scanners the specification associated with the request.

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 6, wherein said first scanner is provided with means for automatically adjusting the scanning process to generate the required document in accordance with the specification in the request after allocation of the scan order.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the request for a digitized document also contains a message to an operator of said scanner.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the request for a digitized document also contains a precondition for processing.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 10, wherein the precondition is used by said management unit as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a digitized document.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein each of said scanners is provided with a display and with means for indicating thereon a request for a digitized document.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is provided with means for indicating a request for a digitized document in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is provided with means for indicating a request for a digitized document only to those scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said management unit is provided with means for automatically dividing a first request for a digitized document into a plurality of second requests with different specifications.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein said management unit is provided with means for assembling digitized partial documents generated in response to the second requests, to form a digitized document corresponding to the first request.

17. (Currently Amended) A management unit for managing a system for generating digitized documents for a digital environment, the system having a plurality of at least one scanners, each provided with a local operator control unit, comprising:

[[-]] inputting means for receiving, from the digital environment, a request for a digitized document; [[,]]

[[-]] warning means for communicating a request for a digitized document to the plurality of scanners; [[,]]

[[-]] receiving means for receiving from any one of the scanners an acceptance of the a request as selected via the local operator control unit of that scanner; [[,]]

[[-]] allocation means whereby, in response to the acceptance, a scan order for generation of the digitized document requested in the ~~selected~~ request is allocated to the scanner which sent the acceptance.

18. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, wherein said receiving means includes:

[[-]] means for receiving from a first scanner an inquiry concerning information regarding a request,

[[-]] means for offering the requested information, and

[[-]] means for receiving from the first scanner an acceptance of a request selected with ~~the~~ aid of the local operator control unit ~~means~~ of the first scanner.

19. (Original) The management unit according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for checking whether the requested digitized document is already available in a required digital form in a connected database.

20. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, wherein said allocation means, when allocating the ~~said~~-scan order, prevents other scanners from accepting the request concerned for a digitized document.

21. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for indicating a request for a digitized document only to those scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request.

22. (Currently Amended) The management unit according to claim 17, further comprising:

means for automatically dividing a first request for a digitized document into a plurality of second requests with different specifications.

23. (Original) The management unit according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for assembling digitized partial documents generated in response to the second requests, to form a digitized document corresponding to the first request.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of making digitized documents available to a digital environment, comprising:

- [[-]] receiving a request for a digitized document from the digital environment in a central management unit;
- [[-]] automatically indicating from the central management unit to a plurality of ~~one or more connected~~ scanners that a request for a digitized document has been received;
- [[-]] selecting ~~and accepting~~ the request ~~by with the aid of~~ local operator control means of any one of the scanners, and sending an acceptance of the request from that accepting scanner to the central management unit ~~a first scanner~~;
- [[-]] in response to receiving the acceptance ~~of the request~~, automatically allocating a scan order by the central management unit to the accepting ~~first~~ scanner for generation of the digitized document requested in the request; and
- [[-]] executing the scan order on the accepting ~~first~~ scanner.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said step of selecting and accepting a request comprises:

- [[-]] inquiring, with ~~the aid of~~ the local operator control means of the accepting ~~first~~ scanner, for information concerning the request,
- [[-]] offering the requested information by the central management unit,
- [[-]] selecting a request with the aid of the local operator control means of the accepting ~~first~~ scanner, and
- [[-]] sending an acceptance of the selected request from the accepting ~~first~~ scanner to the central management unit.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein in response to the reception of the request for a digitized document, a check is first made whether the requested document is already available in a required digital form in a connected database.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein in allocating the scan order, other scanners are prevented from accepting the relevant request for a digitized document.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a digitized document also contains a specification concerning required properties and format of the document.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein on allocation of the scan order the specification belonging to the associated request is automatically transmitted from the central management unit to the accepting ~~first~~ scanner.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein simultaneously with indicating that the request for a digitized document has been requested, the specification belonging to the request is automatically transmitted to applicable scanners.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein after allocation of a scan order, the scanning process for generating the required digitized document on the accepting ~~first~~ scanner is automatically adjusted in accordance with the specification in the request.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a digitized document also contains a message to an operator of the accepting scanner.

33. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a digitized document also contains a precondition for processing.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein the precondition is used by the central management unit as a contributory factor in indicating the received requests for a digitized document.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the indication that the request for a digitized document has been received is made in the form of a signal perceptible to an operator.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the indication that the request for a digitized document has been received is made in the form of a message on a display on a ~~the~~ scanner.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the request for a digitized document is indicated only at those scanners which are capable of executing a scanning process in accordance with the request.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:

dividing a first request for a digitized document into a plurality of second requests with different specifications.

39. (Original) The method according to claim 38, wherein the central management unit assembles digitized part-documents generated in response to the second requests, to form a digitized document corresponding to the first request.